

# Pianola User Guide for Players

How to analyse your results, replay hands and find partners with Pianola

"I finished classes two years ago having retired. I love bridge just wish I had started years ago! Obviously I have so much to learn.

Before Pianola, I used to bring home the print-out of all the hands and examine them for where I bid wrong or how could I have played better. I would make up the hands manually so I could replay them.

Now, Pianola gives me all the stats - how well or badly I bid, best defensive leads and card play. I can also look and examine each hand and replay ."

**Edna Paterson, Player, Glasgow Bridge Centre**

"Pianola is a great addition to the club. Our players really benefit from the information it provides."

**Andrew Robson, Writer, Teacher, and owner of the Andrew Robson Bridge Club**

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# Introduction

Pianola is a tool to help club owners and managers to run bridge clubs, but it also gives club players - like you - new ways to analyse your results and find partners.

Pianola gives you a personal history of your own results with your average score over time, and with each of the different partners with whom you play.

We also calculate what is your average on all the boards where you were declarer, dummy, defender-on-lead and defender-not-on-lead and show you these statistics as an average over time and on a game-by-game basis.

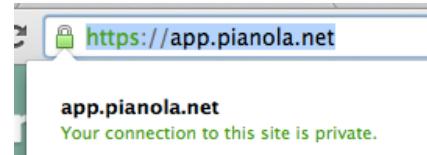
You can also get analysis of your bidding accuracy and card play ability by subscribing to Pianola Plus, an optional upgrade. When you're a Pianola Plus subscriber you can also play hands again with card-by-card guidance about how to achieve the most tricks possible.

Thank you for using Pianola. If you have any questions that aren't covered in this guide, or have any suggestions please contact us by emailing [support@pianola.net](mailto:support@pianola.net).

## A word about security

We take data protection and privacy very seriously. These are the things we do to ensure your data is safe with us.

- Pianola is hosted on a 'secure' server. Look for the padlock in your browser that shows data is being encrypted as it passes over the Internet.
- Our data centre is owned and managed by Amazon. It is a secure facility in Virginia, USA with multiple intruder protections and backup power supplies.
- We backup our data every hour and every day.
- Each user chooses their own username and password. All passwords are stored using one-way encryption so it is impossible for anybody (even us) to read them.
- Each user can control how much information to share with other players. By default, all contact information is hidden from view to other players.
- Our tools help club owners and managers to comply with anti-spam laws by always providing an unsubscribe link, and never revealing recipients' email addresses publicly.



# Compare Pianola and Pianola Plus

Pianola's basic version give players access to great features and benefits free of charge. For extra analysis and tools, upgrade to Pianola Plus for a small monthly or annual fee.

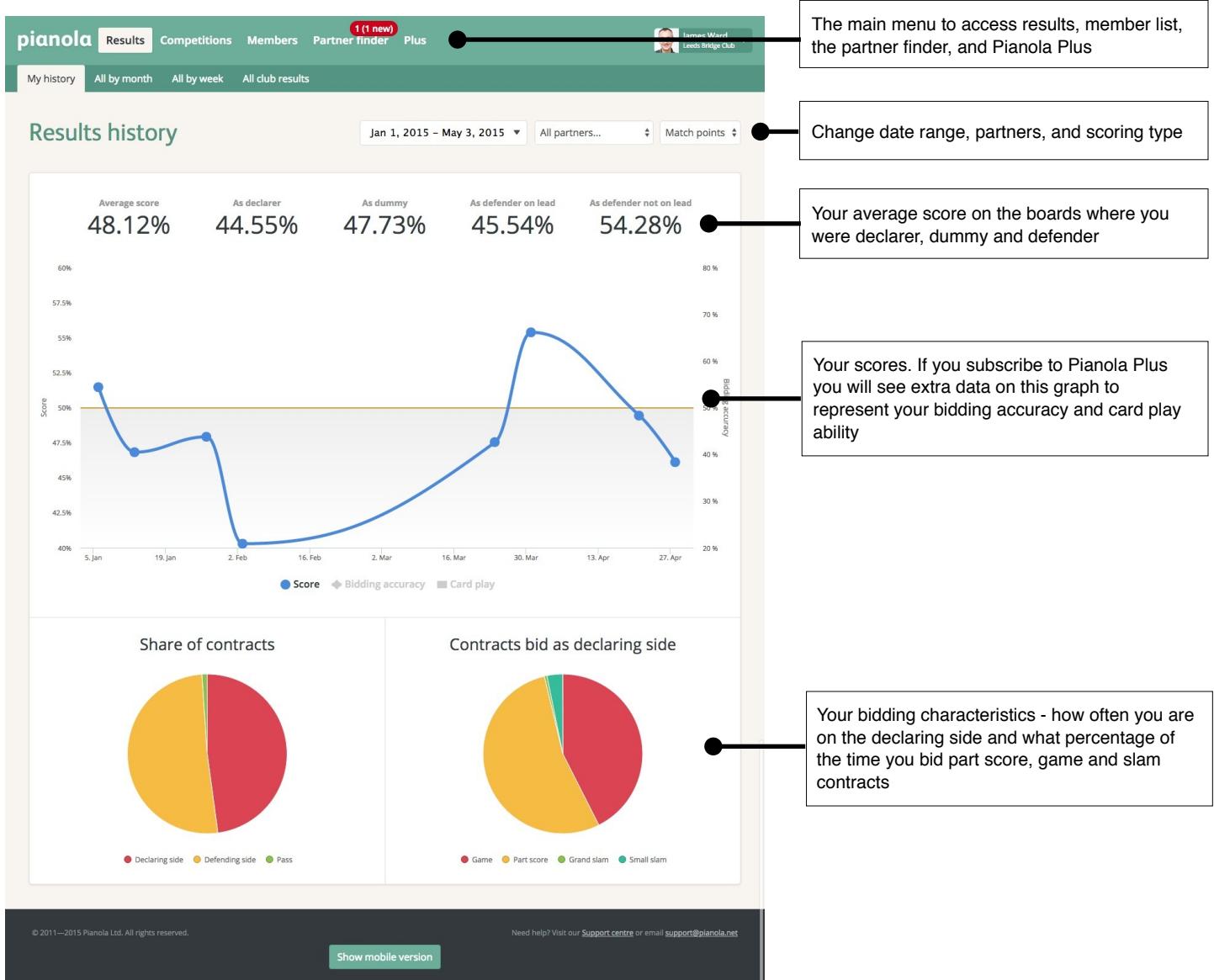
Here's how the two versions compare.

	Pianola	Pianola Plus
Cost for players	Free	Small monthly or annual charge*
Personal results history	✓	✓
Average scores by partner	✓	✓
Average scores by role	✓	✓
Ranking / travellers / scorecards / hands	✓	✓
Partner finder	✓	✓
Player directory	✓	✓
Receive results by email	✓	✓
Replay hands with card-by-card guidance		✓
Analysis of bidding		✓
Analysis of card play		✓

\* see [www.pianola.net/plus](http://www.pianola.net/plus) for information about our fees

# Results

The first page shows you a graph of all your most recent games (in the past three months).



You can see your averages over different time periods, with each of your partners and for different scoring methods (matchpoints, VPs, IMPs).

Click on a game on the graph to view those results. For each game, there is a screen for rankings, travellers, scorecards, session report, and hands.

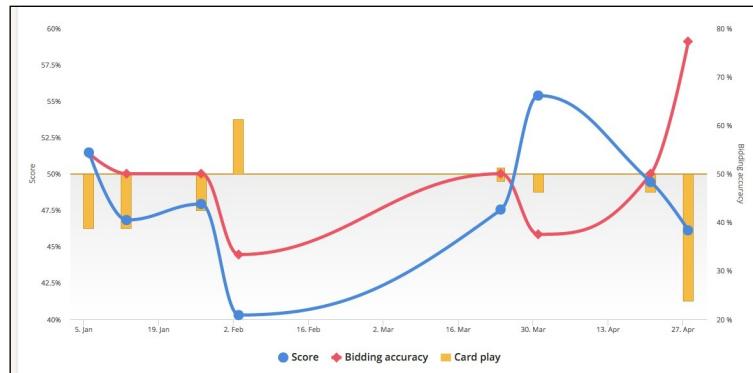
April  
28    Tuesday Pairs Session All

Ranking   Handicapped   Travellers   Scorecards   Session report   Hands

Detailed description: This screenshot shows a session report for 'Tuesday Pairs Session All' on April 28. It includes a calendar icon for April 28. Below the title are tabs for Ranking, Handicapped, Travellers, Scorecards, Session report, and Hands. The 'Session report' tab is currently active.

# Pianola Plus

Pianola Plus is a set of additional analysis tools that you can add to your account. They give you analysis of your bidding and card play, and provide you with a tool to replay hands with card-by-card guidance. When you have Pianola Plus you will see additional data on the results history graph. These show your bidding accuracy and card play in comparison to the double dummy (or makeable contracts), which is the theoretical optimum result for any given board.



## Bidding accuracy

For both sides - declarer and defender - Pianola will assess whether or not the pairs bid to the right level, taking into account their vulnerability and whether there was a profitable sacrifice available.

This is represented by the red line of the graph. The bidding accuracy does not take into account how many tricks you actually won. It looks purely at whether you were playing in a good spot.

### Example

On this board, vulnerable EW can make 4H with an overtrick to score 650.

However, non-vulnerable NS can afford to bid to 6CX, which would score -500 when they go off by three tricks as expected. This is cheaper than allowing EW to make their game contract in hearts.

In actual fact, the optimal contract (or par) on this hand is EW bidding 6HX-1 to score 200. This is because neither side has a bid available to them that can improve on this score.

North				D	NV
▲ K Q 5 7		◆ 3 2			
▼ J 10 7 6 2		▼ A K Q 8 3			
♦ A		♦ K 9 8 4 3			
♣ 8 3 2		♣ 4			
West				v	East
▲ K Q 5 4		▲ 3 2			
▼ J 10 7 6 2		▼ A K Q 8 3			
♦ A		♦ K 9 8 4 3			
♣ 8 3 2		♣ 4			
South				NV	HCPs
▲ A J 8 6		8			
▼ J 7 6 5		10	12		
♦ K J 10 7 5		10			
HCPs					
North	3	-	-	-	-
South	3	-	-	-	-
East	-	1	5	1	1
West	-	1	5	1	1

## Card play

The yellow bars on the results history graph show you how many tricks you won above or below what you were expected to, according to the double dummy. This statistic ignores whether you were in a 'good' contract or not. It simply compares how many tricks you won as declarer or defender to how many tricks you should have won when playing in that denomination.

In the example above, if NS bid 6CX and go off by three tricks, Pianola will report that they made all the tricks they were expected to - i.e. good card play. If they only go off by two tricks, Pianola will say that they made an extra trick over the expectation (and that EW made one trick fewer than they should have done).

# Session report

The session report gives you a complete breakdown of the game.

Screenshot of the Pianola Session report interface showing various analytical charts and tables.

**Summary**

Your partner was Ruth. You scored 46.11%, which placed you 16th. You underbid on 2 hands and the score for these boards was 47.52%. You failed to double on 3 hands and the score for these boards was 69.84%. You bid correctly on 16 hands and the score for these boards was 41.55%. Overall, you made 7 tricks fewer than you were expected to, compared to the double dummy. On the boards where your bidding and card play both matched or exceeded double dummy, your average score was 55.19%.

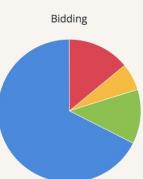
**Declarer** avg 53.58%    **Dummy** avg 36.36%    **Defender on lead** avg 50.00%    **Defender not on lead** avg 42.51%

**You and Ruth**

**Bidding** 

**Card play** 

**Best in field**

**Bidding** 

**Card play** 

**Filter by All roles**

Board	Score	Bid	By	Result	Freq.	Diagnosis	Card play
12	0%	3NT	N	-1	1/11	Well bid	
2	10%	4♥	W	+1	7/11	Well bid	
3	15%	6NT	E	+1	4/11	Well bid	
16	15%	3♠	S	-1	6/11	Well bid	
20	15%	4♣	W	+3	7/11	Well bid	
21	20%	1NT	W	+1	10/11	Failed to X	
26	20%	3♦	W	=	2/11	Well bid	
13	35%	4♣	S	-1	6/12	Well bid	
4	40%	4♥	W	+1	9/11	Well bid	
28	40%	3NT	E	+1	11/11	Well bid	
11	45%	1NT	S	=	7/11	Well bid	
23	45%	1NT	S	+2	2/11	Underbid	
28	45%	PASS	N		2/11	Well bid	
25	50%	2NT	N	+1	8/11	Underbid	
27	50%	4♥	N	+1	8/11	Well bid	
1	50%	3NT	E	=	8/11	Well bid	
22	50%	4♣	E	+1	10/11	Well bid	
14	82%	2♣	W	-1	7/12	Well bid	
15	85%	3NT	E	-1	4/11	Failed to X	
19	85%	4♥	S	=	5/11	Well bid	
17	100%	3♣	S	=	3/11	Well bid	
18	100%	6NT	W	-2	1/11	Failed to X	

A text summary of the game's results

The boards you played in each role and what was your average score in each case

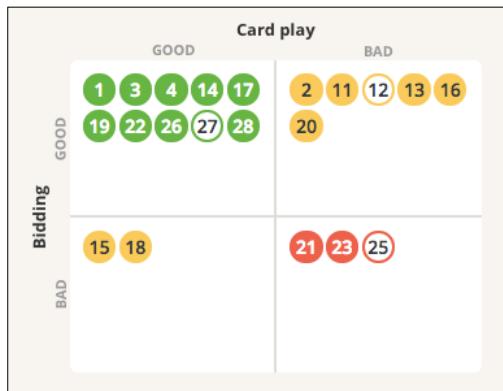
Representation of your bidding accuracy and card play ability for each board

How the best in field did in the bidding and the card play so you can compare your performance with theirs

Board-by-board breakdown of your score, bid, and analysis

# Interpreting the charts

Pianola Plus provides three charts for your bidding accuracy and card play. The first chart shows your boards divided into four areas. When Pianola says “good” or “bad” it is only in comparison to the double dummy - it’s not making value judgements about your game.



- The top left quadrant are the boards you bid well and played well
- The top right are the boards you bid well but played badly.
- Bottom left are the boards your bid badly but played well
- Bottom right are the boards where both the bidding and the card play were wrong

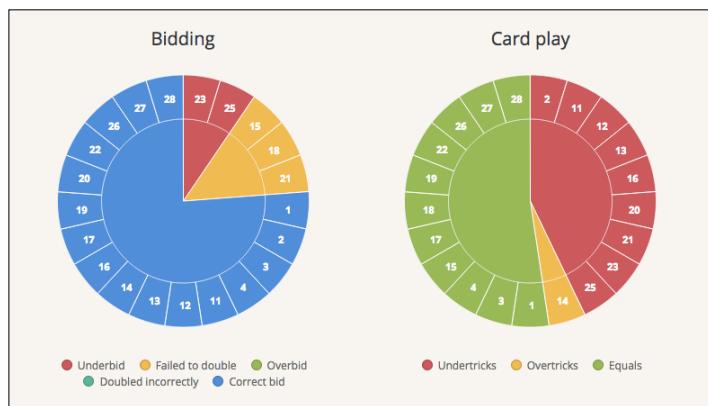
The next two charts show your bidding and card play for each board.

## Bidding

We show you for each board whether you bid “correctly” (ie in line with the double dummy) or whether you underbid, overbid, failed to double, or doubled incorrectly.

## Card play

For each board, we show you whether you made all the tricks you were entitled to or whether you made more or fewer than you should. This is compared to the double dummy analysis for the suit in which the contract was played and provides data whether you were declarer or defender. So if the double dummy says NS can make 2S, they are expected to make eight tricks (even if they bid higher or lower) and their opponents are expected to make five tricks.



## Best in field

This data is only useful in the context of the best in field.

In this example that my partner and I bid better than the best in field (the blue section of the left hand pie chart).

However, it's our card play with was significantly worse and the reason we got a poor score. The best in field made extra tricks on far more boards than my partner and I did.

Remember - these are extra tricks compared to the double dummy - not compared to the contract they were in.

## Summary table

In the table at the bottom, you will see a board-by-board breakdown of each hand. It shows the score, the bid and actual result, the frequency of that bid, the bidding analysis, card play analysis, and the role you took on that board.

Board		Bid			Result		Card play								
Board	Score	Bid	By	Result	-3	-2	-1	=	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5	+6	+7
12	0%	3NT	N	-1	1/11	Well bid		-1							Dummy
2	10%	4♥	W	+1	7/11	Well bid		-1							Defender not on lead
3	15%	6NT	E	+1	4/11	Well bid		=							Defender on lead

- Hover your mouse over the bidding analysis to see the bidding assessment
- Click a row to view the full traveller
- Click a column header to sort by board number or by score
- Use the filter menu to show boards where you were in a specific role

Board		Bid			Result		Card play								
Board	Score	Bid	By	Result	-3	-2	-1	=	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5	+6	+7
12	0%	3NT	N	-1	1/11	Well bid		-1							Dummy

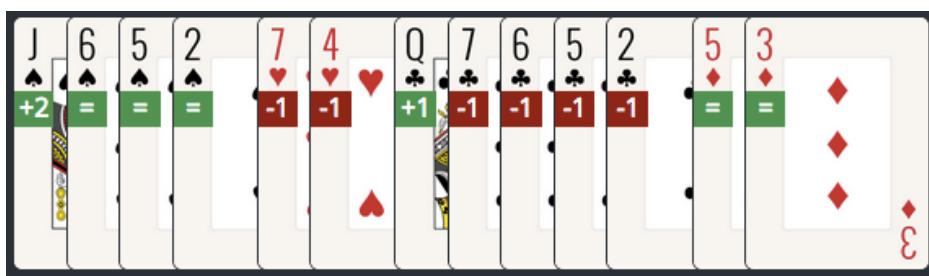
# Pianola Replay

Ever wondered how to make the extra tricks that other people took? Can't see how to make the contract that the hand record says you should? Pianola Replay will show you. It lets you play any again, with card-by-card guidance.

To launch it, click the “Replay this hand” button that you’ll see alongside every hand record. The hand will open up with the contract that was played at your table.

The screenshot shows a bridge hand replay interface. At the top, there's a green header bar with a back arrow and the word "pianola". Below the header is a row of cards representing the board: K, Q, J, 10, A, 9, 8, 4, 10, 8, 4, 2, and a red diamond. The main area contains four hands of cards. The leftmost hand has a box around its top three cards (A, 7, 4). The rightmost hand has a box around its top four cards (Q, 10, 9, 8, 3). The bottom-most hand has a box around its top five cards (J, 6, 5, 2, 7). The middle hand has a box around its top six cards (4, Q, 7, 6, 5, 2). Below each hand, there are numerical labels indicating the outcome of each card played under the best contract. At the bottom of the interface, there are buttons for "Turn guidance off", "3NT by E", "NS: 0", "EW: 0", and a pencil icon. Two callout boxes with arrows point to specific elements: one points to the "Turn guidance on or off" button, and the other points to the "Contract (click pencil to change)" button.

The labels on the cards show the outcome for the contract of each card played, assuming best play from that point on. So in this example, the opening leader will either set the contract or give declarer up to two overtricks, depending on their choice of lead.



You don’t play the hand against the computer. Instead, you play all four hands and can choose to follow the advice or ignore it so you can see how the whole hand plays out. Regular use of Pianola Replay will help you understand how to play the hands better.

# Competitions

If your club uses Pianola to calculate the results of any competitions, you will see those listed here.

The screenshot shows the 'Competitions' section of the Pianola website. At the top, there are tabs for Results, Competitions (which is selected), Members, Partner finder, and Plus. A notification bar indicates '1 (1 new)'. On the right, a user profile for 'Leeds Bridge Club' is shown. The main area is titled 'Competitions' and contains two tables: 'Active' and 'Completed'. The 'Active' table has no entries. The 'Completed' table lists two entries: 'Championship Pairs 2014-15' (Pair, Any, No) and 'Championship Pairs 2014-15 (handicapped)' (Pair, Any, Yes). Both entries have a date range from 01 Sep 2014 to 30 Apr 2015. At the bottom, there are copyright and support information.

# Members

The members page is a list of all the members of your club. Find a member by typing a name in the search box at the top.

Click on a member's listing to see more information about them. What you can see will depend on how much they have chosen to share. Each member can choose whether or not to share their contact information and / or the results history. They may also add information about their preferred system, a biography and a photo.

The screenshot shows the 'Members' section of the Pianola website. At the top, there are tabs for Results, Competitions, Members (selected), Partner finder, and Plus. A notification bar indicates '1 (1 new)'. On the right, a user profile for 'Leeds Bridge Club' is shown. The main area is titled 'Start typing to search members...' and displays a table of member profiles. Each profile includes a small thumbnail, first name, last name, preferred system, NGS grade, NGS band, ranking, and a search icon. The members listed are Pamela Adler, Sandra Andrews, Eileen Armstrong, Dan Ash, Hilary Asoko, Alan Barnett, Jeremy Barton, Oiga Bartram, Alan Berstock, Barbara Berson, Stephen Berson, Pranit Bhattacharyya, Ann Binns, Jim Binns, and Geoffrey Birks. At the bottom, there are navigation links for First, Previous, Next, Last, and page number 15, along with copyright and support information.

# Partner Finder

You can see who's looking for a partner and create an advert for yourself when you need a partner. This number shows how many people are looking for a partner and how many are new since you last looked.



The screenshot shows the Pianola website interface. At the top, there are navigation links: Adverts (selected), Preferences, Results, Competitions, Members, Partner finder (with a red badge indicating '1 (1 new)'), and Plus. A user profile for 'James Ward' is shown. Below the navigation, there are tabs for 'Adverts' and 'Preferences'. The main content area is titled 'Partner finder' and features a 'Create new advert' button. A pop-up window displays a player profile for 'Georgina Wooler', a 1 Star Premier Master, with a Monday Pairs session listed. The profile includes statistics like Pianola avg. 49.5%, Pianola Best 64.8%, NGS Grade 49.31%, and NGS Band 8. It also shows email and phone numbers. At the bottom of the page, there are copyright notices and a link to the support center.

If you see someone you'd like to play with, send them an email or give them a call using the contact details shown on their advert.

If you'd like to post and advert yourself, click on the 'Create new advert' button. A pop-up window will appear. Click on the date you want and then select from the games available on that day (if there's more than one). When you're done, click 'Save and send emails'. This will send an email notification to anyone who's opted-in to receive them.

The screenshot shows a calendar for May 2015. The date '12' is highlighted in yellow, indicating it is selected. Below the calendar, a dropdown menu shows 'Session (1)' and 'Tuesday Pairs - Main Section'. At the bottom, there is a large green 'Save and send emails' button.

Click on the 'Preferences' link to select who can see your adverts. You can choose the default setting and then make individual selections for specific players:

The screenshot shows the 'Partner finder notification preferences' section. It starts with a note that Pianola can notify you when people are looking for a partner and hide your adverts from people you'd prefer not to partner with. By default, all players are in the neutral column but you can change those settings here. Any changes you make are saved instantly. Below this is a form where the user can set their default preference: Notify (radio button selected), Neutral, or Block. There is also a 'Update preference' button. Below the form is a search bar with placeholder text 'Start typing to search members...'. A table lists three players: Pamela Adler (42.1% avg, Four, Club Master, Std Acol, Notify selected), Sandra Andrews (49.6% avg, Eight, 1 Star Master, Benji Acol, Neutral selected), and Eileen Armstrong (49.0% avg, Nine, Advanced Master, None set, Block selected).

**Notify:** means you will receive an email when this player is looking for a partner

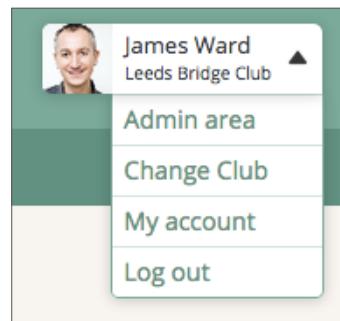
**Neutral:** means you will not receive an email but they will be able to see any adverts you post

**Block:** means this player will not see any adverts you post

# Other options

## Admin area

If your club has given you admin permissions (say, to upload results) you will see a link here to go to the admin area. If you do not have any admin rights you won't see a link here.



## Change club

This screen allows you to switch between results at other clubs that use Pianola.

## My account

My account is where you can add extra information about yourself, as well as choose how much information to share with other members of your bridge club.

### Personal details

Your membership number(s), name, address and phone numbers. You can also edit your username and password on this page.

It will help the administrators of your bridge club if you keep these details up-to-date, especially your email address as they will send you news and information by email in the future.

### Bridge details

Your preferred system as well as any other systems you play. (Please email [support@pianola.net](mailto:support@pianola.net) if you play a system that's not listed here and we'll add it.)

You can also add a short biography about your bridge playing history so other members know a little more about you.

### Photo

Upload a photo from your computer by clicking on the 'Browse' or 'Choose file' button. This photo will be displayed on your profile and in the members list.

### Communication preferences

Your club may have created some opt-in email lists. If you would like to receive information aimed at these groups, tick the box and click Save.

### Privacy

You can choose whether or not to share your contact details and / or your results history. Click the box next to each option and click Save.